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LIST OF EARTHQUAKES IN CALIFORNIA.

The United States Geological Survey has published the following *Bulletins*, containing lists of earthquakes felt on the Pacific Coast :

Bulletin No. 68.—Earthquakes in California in 1889. By J. E. KEELER. 1890. 8vo., 25 pages. Price, 5 cents.

Bulletin No. 95.—Earthquakes in California in 1890 and 1891. By E. S. HOLDEN. 1892. 8vo., 31 pages. Price, 5 cents.

Bulletin No. 112.—Earthquakes in California in 1892. By C. D. PERRINE. 1893. 8vo., 57 pages. Price, 10 cents.

Copies of these *Bulletins* can be had by addressing the Chief Clerk, United States Geological Survey, Washington, D. C. Remittance should be made only by Postal note, money-order, or currency.
C. D. P.

MERIDIAN CIRCLE OBSERVATIONS AT MADISON.

In Vol. VIII of the *Publications of the WASHBURN Observatory*, of the University of Wisconsin, are given the results of the meridian circle observations made in the years 1888 to 1890.

The introduction to the volume, by the Director, GEORGE C. COMSTOCK, gives a compact and finished discussion of all of the details of the methods of observing, and of the reductions. The observations were in charge of Professor S. J. BROWN, U. S. N., who was invited by the Director to go to Madison in order to carry on a series of observations, originally planned for the meridian circle at Annapolis, while the work of the Naval Observatory at Washington was interrupted by the change of location. Professor BROWN, with Mr. ALBERT S. FLINT and Mr. H. V. EGBERT, took part in the observing, two persons being engaged at once.

The plan of work included the determination of the positions of all the "additional stars" of AUWERS' *Fundamental Catalogue*, in terms of the "principal stars" of that system.

Five observations in each position of the instrument were to be obtained; and five additional, in each position, for the circumpolar stars at lower culmination.

All stars south of 60° Declination were used for the Right Ascension determinations, for m and ΔT ; and for azimuth, or n .

besides the 6 close circumpolars, 9 others were adopted, with small corrections in some cases to the Berlin *Jahrbuch* places.

The level was determined by spirit level. The collimation was obtained at various times by three different methods: by the two collimators directly; by nadir observation, with b from spirit level; and by reversal on the collimators. Preference is given to the second method.

Absolute Declinations were observed, by referring all circle readings to that of the vertical, given by the nadir observation, and assuming the latitude of the Observatory $+43^{\circ} 4' 36''.72$.

The introduction includes the results of the determination of the division error of the 10' diameters of the circle; and it is concluded that they are systematic within a few hundredths of a second.

The graduation was performed by the REPSOLDS, consecutively, from beginning to end.

A discussion of the personal differences between the observers, based upon the results given by each, is included. Also the results for each, of observing in position facing north and facing south. None of the quantities obtained for these small corrections have been applied to the results.

A systematic difference is shown in the observed Declinations of the Berlin *Jahrbuch* stars when compared with that list. This difference changes sign at the zenith, and the lower culmination observations agree with the others in indicating dependence upon the observed zenith distance.

The volume also contains the meridian circle observations of *Mars*, made at the opposition of 1892. R. H. T.

DISCOVERY OF COMET *A*, 1894.

A telegram from the HARVARD College Observatory announces the discovery of a faint comet by Mr. W. F. DENNING of Bristol, England, on March 26.396 G. M. T.

DISCOVERY OF COMET *B*, 1894.

A telegram from Harvard College Observatory announces the discovery of a bright comet by WALTER F. GALE, at Sydney, N. S. W., on April 2.944 G. M. T.